THE Miracle of Miracles:

ing a Hiſtoricall Account of the Birth, Parentage, Education and long long Life, of Dame *Jane Scrimſhaw*, lately an Inhabitant in Merchant Taylors Alms-Houſes on little *Tower-Hill*, near *Roſemary-lane*, who departed this Life on the 25th of this inſtant *December*, 1711.

That lived to the Age of a Hundred and twenty ſeven Years, ſhe lived in the Reign of ſeven Queen's, and five Kings of *Eugland*. And alſo of two Protectors of one Common Wealth. To which is added, the many Husbands ſhe had Married, the Children by them, tke variety of Comical Stories ſhe told to Gentlemen that came to ſee her. The Annual Song before the *Queen*, and Elegy on her Death.

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The Hiſtory of *Jane Scrimſhaw*, &c.

THe Perſon I am now going to Treat of, *viz. Jane Scrimſhaw* was the Daughter of one *Thomas Scrimſhaw* a Woolſtapler by his Trade, ſhe was born in *London* the 3d of *April* 1584. in the Pariſh of St. *Mary le Bow* in the Reign of Q *Elizabeth* of bleſſed Memory.

Her poor aged Father took great care of her, in her in her Child-hood; and brought her to be an honeſt ſort of a Girl, and being well taught to Read and Writ, ſhe in proceſs of Time, became the Wves to three Husbands ſucceſſively one after the other: But upon enquiry it can't be found their Names nor the Place of their aboad, by thoſe three Men ſhe had but two Children, and they both dyed young.

The laſt Husband of the three (we find) was free of the Merchant Taylors Company, and when ſhe grew to be what Decaying in the World, the ſaid Company did *Anually* allow her a Penſion; which was ſome part of a ſupport to her in her old Age, and Out-living all her Relations, Friends and Acquaintances, ſhe at laſt was farther obliged to the ſaid Company of Merchant Taylors, and they carefully put her into one of their Alms-Houſes, on little *Tower-Hill* near *Roſemary-Lane*; in which ſhe lived a conſiderable Time.

The ſaid *Scrimſhaw* was born in the 55th Year of the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, ſhe ſaw her overcome all the *Spaniſh Armado*, ſaw the Earl of *Eſſex* beheaded on *Tower-Hill*, and heard of the ſame Queens Death, ſaw her Interred in *Weſtminſter-Abby*; and was then at that Time about ſixteen Years of age.

When King *James* the firſt came from *Scotland*, and his good Queen *Anne*; ſhe remembers the Birth of Prince *Charles* and his Brothers, and upon enquiry cou'd relate every thing touching the Plot of the *Papiſts*, upon the fifth of *November*; and the Execution of *Vaux* and others for

for the ſame; and after the Death of the ſaid King *James* and his Queen, ſhe was much about the Age of Fourty One Years.

She remembred very well the Duke of *Buckinham's* Embaſſy to *Spain*, about Treating with the King for his Daughter, to be a Wife to Prince *Charles*; and how in paſſing thro' *France* to ſee her, he ſet his Affections on Madamoſſelle *Heritta Marie* Siſter to the King of *France* and how in proceſs of Time he was Married to her, and after he was Crowned King of *England*, he was bleſt with a Prince *Charles* by Name, and in ſome time after he was Created Prince of *Wales*.

When Prince *James* was Born, ſhe remember the Baptizing of him, and who were God-fathers and God-mothers, and as currantly did relate all the Miſfortunes the bleſt Martyr and pious Children underwent, as if it had been but newly done.

Oliver Cromwell the Protector was with much eaſe reputed, and his black Villanies, and the many Plots and counter Plots he invented to take away the Lives of the Loyaliſts, the ſelling of Kings Lands, Queens Lands, Lords Lands, Biſhops Land, and the Lands of many of the Commons of *England*, and how piouſly he went to ſeek the Lord God of Heaven, while he publickly Butcher'd his Anointed King. She remembers the many ſucceſsful Battles he at laſt obtain'd over the Loyaliſts, the Battle he got againſt the *Spainards*, when he took *Dunkirk*, and the Pannick fear the *French* were in when he took poſſeſſion thereof, and the publick diſgrace he made *France* undergo when the King loſt the Battle at *Worceſter* fight, was forced privily to go to *France* in a diſguiſe of a Footman's Habit, and compelled to drive him out of *France*.

Theſe and many more things ſhe did then remember, but that which Crowns all; ſhe very readily repeated the great High Wind, in which old *Noll* was ſetch'd away by *Belzebub* his Maſter on the 3d of *September*.

and how that poos *Richard* was Addreſs'd by all the Corporations of *England*, to take upon him the Protectorſhip, and what a vaſt Funeral they made for poor *Noll*, that the very Tradeſmen remains unpaid to this very Day.

She remembers that *Richard* being ſomewhat a Loyaliſt, uſed often to drink his Landlords health, and ſome ſmall time after, was ſoon excluded his Royal Protectorſhip, and then a ſort of Rump Covenant was ſet up alſo, and was before its room, ſo it ſoon became abortive, and then General *Monk* began to play his Party, and ſet out from *Scotland* to *London*, and all the Citizens was in great pain to know what he drove at, and meant; and coming into the City, the Citizens ſuffer'd him to pull down their Gates, and enter into the City, and when he and his Army had been there for ſome time, and Communed with the Heads of the Citizens, in whom he cou'd confide, he reveal'd to them his mind. And by their Advice goes to the Houſe of Commons, and plucks the Rump out by the Ears, and after he had brought in the ſecluded Members, they with one Conſent reſolved on the calling of a Convention.

The time being come that they ſhou'd meet, but during that time, he had ſent privily to King *Charles* the 2d, and offer'd to reſtore him to his Kingdoms, if he would but pardon him all Offences that he had Committed againſt his Majeſty. The King agrees to this, and in the Intrime ſent him a George and Star, and created him D. of *Albemarle*, and the Convention being met the King's Letters were Read in both Houſes, and to the great Satisfaction of the whole Nation, was with one Voice deſired to return, and Proclaimed K. of *England* almoſt at a time.

Upon his Reſtoration, ſhe did often repeat the Magnificence of his Entry, and the Royal Solemnity of his Crownation in proceſs of time, the Reſtotation of the Worſhip of the Church of *England*, and the Marriage with *Katherine* of *Portugal* the King of *Portugals* Siſter, and

for

also of the Marriage of the Duke of York with Chancellor *Hides* Daughter, who the ſaid Duke wou'd fain have denied his Marriage, and been Married to another, but King *Charles* the 2d having more Honour aud Conſcience, wou'd not ſuffer it to be. That Chanceller ſold *Dunkirk* to the *French* King, for 100000*l* That the Plot call'd *Oates* Plot, againſt the Life of the King, and the Duke was ſo well known to her, and how at laſt it ended in the Royal Oak Conſpiracy, and Aſſaſſination, and the many perſons there were Executed on the account of both Plots.

Remembers the Death of King *Charles* the 2d very well, and the various Reports of his being Poyſon'd with Chocolate, at the Dutcheſs of *Portſmouth*'s, and then with Snuff that was prepared to take away his Life, and ſo make way for his Brothers coming to the Crown.

When King James *came to the Crown, he was a little before that Eſpouſed to the Royal Princeſs* Maria, *of the Houſe of* Eſtie *a Nice to his Holineſs the* Pope, *and his Queen was Crowned with him in* Weſtminſt. Abbey, *on St.* George's *Day, it being pretty Windy and ſomewhat Rainy, and after they were both Crowned, King* James *Camcipers broke coming out of the Sanctuary, this they ſaid was Ominous protendtended the Downfall of his Monarchie.*

The P—— of W—— *ſhe remembers all the matter relating to that affair, and how the Queen and the Baby were forced te make their* Eſcapes *to* France, *how the Lord Chanceller,* Jefferys, *and ſeveral others were taken, and how they were ſent to the Tower, and at laſt how the Ponce of* Orange *landed at* Exeter, *to the great* Rejoycing *of the* Nation.

And how Queen Mary *and King* William *dyed, to the great grief of the three Kingdoms.*

In the Year 1701. *Queen* Anne *was proclaim'd to the rejoycing content and ſatisfaction of all the People of* Great Britain, *and theſe and Thouſand more Stories, ſhe uſed to acquaint the Gentlemen, who often ſent to her Joynts of Meat, others Fowls and Wine, aud theſe were the Stories ſhe continually Entertain'd them with.*

This

This Dame Scrimshaw being reported to be above One Hundred Years of Age, Her Majesty Queen Anne sent a Coach for her, and brought her to St. James's; and when she came in her presence, she fell down on her Knees, and cry'd out; God save the Queen: And after she was permitted to Kiss her Hand, a Chair was brought for her to sit in, and several small Pints were given her to Read, and she read 'em very currantly without any Specktakles.

She Walked without a Stick very upright and quick, cou'd Smoak Tobacco; and then after she was Entertain'd by the Queen, she was desired to sing Her Majesty a Song; and to oblige the Queen and the rest of the Nobility, she sung this following Song.

The Song she Sung before the Queens most Excellent Majesty.

I.

THE *Queen God Bless, long may she Reign,*
In Glory Peace and Splendour;
And may she Heavens Crown Obtain,
She being his Faiths Defender.

II.

May her Enemies were prevail,
To disturb her Peace and Quiet;
And may their Weapons always fail,
When they begin to Royot.

III.

Let this my Prayer reach, O Lord,
Unto thy Throne in Heaven;
And may we by thy Glorious Word,
Have all our Sins forgiven.

After

After she had sung her Song, being well entertained, the Queen made a present of twenty Guineas, and sent her home in a Hackney Coach as she came in before, and thus every *New-Years-day*, she constantly came to Visit her Majesty, and designed to come this; but Death it seems, sent her of another Errand, to make a Visit to the King of Kings, the manner thus:

About a Fortnight or three Weeks before *Christmas*, she was taken with a Shivering cold fit, like an *Ague*; which held some time. By and by it would turn to a Violent cough, and so she continued for the space of a Week or more, she finding her self so very bad desired one of the Alms-women to lay with her, which she very readily consented to, and the next *Sunday* desired her to go to Church with her, that she might receive the Sacrament, which was Instituted by Christ, for it seems she was very good Christian, so that she continued perfectly iv her Senses till *Christmas Eve*, and then she felter'd in her Speech, and Ratled in the Throat, and on *Christmas - Day* last, in the morning she did; to the great surprize of all the beholders, for her Soul parted from her Body so pleasantly, as if it had been wearied of that Tabernacle it had so long dwelt in, and on *Childermas-day* last, she was interred in *Aldgate* Church Yard about Nine a Clock at Night.

The ELEGY.

OLD *Scrimshaw*'s dead, sure 'tis but a Jest,
She's only taking now her Natural rest;
She that has lived so long upon the Earth,
As a Hundr'd twenty seven Years in a breath,
'Tis impossible to loose it, she held it so long,
And by saying she's Dead, you do her great wrong.

She's only gone to Visit the Queen,
On *New-Years Day* next, and then will be seen
Again as before; but O cruel Fate!
What is it I say, 'tis in vain to relate,
The King of Terrors has made her more great.
To Heaven he sent her, on last Christmas Day,
Sure none can miss it, being in the right way,
By which all must Enter the strait Gate I say.
Thus by the Blessing of God and his Son,
She Journey'd that day, on that happy Morn,
Where we anjoys the Blesses of Heaven,
All Angelical Welcomes so Diviuely given;
And glory she gave to God on his Throne,
While she left us Wrestling and sighing alone.

The EPITAPH.

HEre lies old Age, that's just now gone to sleep,
Do not disturb her, least she makes you weep,
'Tis a Hundred twenty seven Years since she
Beheld the Day of her Natiry;
And being wearied with so long a stay,
She took her flight to Heaven, on Christmas-Day.

FINIS.